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CLAIMS:

1. Oil extracted from the seeds of *Momordica charantia L.*, for topical application to the body of a mammal, and useful as anti-inflammatory, anti-arthritic, vasculodilatory and wound healing agent, said oil comprising essentially of: -

Capric acid	0.7-1.2% by wt.
Lauric acid	0.6-1% by wt.
Palmitic acid	4.2-5.0% by wt.
Stearic acid	59-62% by wt.
Oleic acid	13-15% by wt.
Arachidic acid	3-5% by wt.
Linoleic acid	8-10% by wt.
Other undetected minor acids	6-8% by wt.

2. Oil as claimed in claim 1 wherein the ingredients of the oil are as under:-

Capric acid	0.9% by wt.
Lauric acid	0.8% by wt.
Palmitic acid	4.2 % by wt.
Stearic acid	50.90% by wt.
Oleic acid	13.30% by wt.
Arachidic acid	3.20% by wt.
Linoleic acid	9.80% by wt.
Other minor undetected components and acids	- 6.90% by wt.

3. A novel oil composition comprising:-
oil extracted from the 70 to 80% by wt.
of *Momordica charantia L.*,
one or more vegetable oils, 15 to 25% by wt.

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fragrance oil. 3% by wt.
 essential oil 1% by wt.
 and at least one perfume component 2% by wt.

4. An oil composition as claimed in claim 3 wherein the vegetable oil is selected from sesame oil, coconut oil, groundnut oil, olive oil, palm oil and other foodgrade oil.
5. An oil composition as claimed in claim 3 wherein the fragrance oil is selected from rose oil, sandalwood oil, geranium oil or lavender oil.
6. An oil composition as claimed in claim 3 wherein the composition is in physical forms selected from cream, gel, lotion, or combinations thereof.
7. An oil composition as claimed in claim 3 wherein the composition is prepared by mixing the oil extracted from *Momordica charantia L.* with suitable pharmaceutically acceptable carriers.
8. A process for the extraction of oil from the seeds of *Momordica charantia L.*, comprising the steps of :
 - (i) grinding dry seeds to a fine powder in a suitable mill,
 - (ii) treating the pulverized seeds with a mixture of non- polar solvents,
 - (iii) allowing the mixture to stand for 48 hours at room temperature so that the oil separates out,
 - (iv) collecting the oil from the supernatant layer using a separating funnel,

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- (v) refluxing the mixture obtained in step (iv) with any non-polar solvent to remove the last traces of oil,
- (vi) purifying the oil by adding 2-5% zinc acetate dissolved in water to precipitate the salts with impurities from the oil, and
- (vii) analysis of the oil extracted by gas liquid chromatography..

9. A process as claimed in claim 8 wherein the seeds of *Momordica charantia L.*, are split, washed thoroughly with water 2-3 times to render the seeds substantially free from impurities and dried under vacuum before the grinding in step (i).

10. A process as claimed in claim 8 wherein the non-polar solvent comprises a mixture of acetone with an aromatic or aliphatic hydrocarbon selected from the group of benzene, hexane, petroleum ether and ethyl ether.

11. A process as claimed in claim 10 wherein the ratio of the aliphatic or aromatic hydrocarbon in the non-polar solvent mixture is 2:1.

12. Use of the oil extracted from *Momordica charantia L* or its composition for treatment of inflammation, arthritis, vasculodilation and wounds in a patient body, by applying the oil or composition as claimed in claims 1 to 7 on the affected area of the patient body for a period of about six to twenty weeks.

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